MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Notices issued to companies for repayment of loans

*206. DR. BAPU KALDATE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Reserve Bank has issued notices to several companies through the nationalised banks from whom the companies have obtained loans to repay the loan amount within three months;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether any company belonging to Reliance group has also been served with such a notice; and

(d) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) to (d) Reserve Bank of India has asked banks to take immediate steps to recall loans made in 1985 to certain borrowers connected with Reliance Industries Ltd., against the security of shares and debentures of that Company, except in the case of any company where the Banks are satisfied that the company has utilised the entire loan for the purpose for which it was given. RBI has also advised the Banks that in case any of the borrowing companies is not in a position to repay the dues immediately, the repayment may be phased over a period not exceeding 3 months. The Bank concerned are accordingly taking steps to recall the advances.

Loan advanced to Nowrosjee Wadia Private Limited

*207. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA:
SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that certain banks had advanced loans to Nowrosjee Wadia Private Limited, a subsidiary of Bombay Dyeing on hypothecation of goods of Bombay Dyeing Company;

(b) if so, whether Bombay Dyeing Company mentioned this fact in its balance-sheet of 1984-85; and

(c) if not, what action has been taken against the banks and the management of Bombay Dyeing Company in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) to (c) It is reported by the Reserve Bank of India that certain packing credit limits have been sanctioned to Nowrosjee Wadia & Sons Pvt. Ltd. (NWS) for export purposes by a consortium of banks against hypothecation of goods by Bombay Dyeing Company Ltd. Balance Sheet of 1984-85 of Nowrosjee Wadia & Sons Pvt. Ltd., available with the lead Bank makes a mention of loans and overdrafts from Banks secured by hypothecation of stocks of the BDMC Ltd. So far as Bombay Dyeing & Mfg. Co. is concerned, double financing is avoided by Banks by deducting these stocks from the stocks statement submitted by BDMC for finalising their limits.

Discriminatory wages for daily workers in Central Government Undertakings

*208. SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA:
SHRI LAL K. ADVANI:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a very large number of daily workers are engaged with discriminatory wages and service conditions for similar jobs in various Central Government Undertakings;

(b) what is the judgement of the Supreme Court in the case of Surinder Singh Vs. CPWD with regard to this discrimination; and

(c) what follow-up action has been taken to end the discrimination as per the Supreme Court verdict?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) to (c) Information regarding rates of wages and service conditions of daily wage workers in all the Central Government Undertakings is not available.

The Supreme Court in its judgement dated 17-1-1986 in the case of Surinder Singh & Another Versus the Engineer-in-Chief, CPWD & Others has directed the respondents to pay the petitioners and all other daily-rated employees the same salary and allowances as are paid to regular and permanent employees, with effect from the date when they were respectively employed.

The Government have made payment of arrears of wages as well as perspective payment as per the judgement to the petitioners and have filed a Review Petition in the Supreme Court.

Effect of Bank credit squeeze on exports

*209. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that bank credit squeeze has retarded export performance;

(b) whether bank credit policy is being liberalized as reported in the 'Hindustan Times' on the 30th October, 1986; and

(c) whether small-sector export units will be given preference in the matter of bank credit in view of their better performance?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH): (a) Reserve Bank has informed that there is no credit squeeze at present and therefore the question of export being affected on this account does not arise.

(b) Credit policy announced by the RBI recently, on October 28, 1986 provides that banks will continue to be provided export refinance at 9 per cent per annum and the limits would be equivalent to 100 per cent of the increase in export credit over the monthly average level of credit in 1984 also, and no application for export credit should be rejected by a competent authority without the approval of the next higher authority. The credit policy for busy season has been formulated so that all genuine requirements of productive sector, including export, are met.

(c) Export credit is related to the value of export—higher the value of exports, larger is the bank credit. Thus, those small-scale export units which are able to perform better in terms of exports, can get higher level of bank credit.

Legislation for welfare of unorganised labour

*210. SHRIMATI RATAN KUMARI:
SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to bring forward any new legislation and also review the minimum wages vis-a-vis poverty line norms besides amending the Factories Act so as to ensure workers' safety and health in general and welfare of the vulnerable unorganised labour in particular; and

(b) if so, what are the deatils thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) and (b) Some amendments to the Factories Act, 1948 are under consideration of the Government.

Exemption of excise duty on sugar

*211. SHRI T. CHANDRASEKHAR REDDY:
SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have totally exempted the basic excise duty on excess sugar produced during the first two months of 1986-87 season, to provide an incentive to start early cane crushing and to boost up sugar production this year; and

(b) if so, how far it has boosted up sugar production during the first two months of this year's crushing season as compared to that in the corresponding period in last two years?